



## CHARLEVOIX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

W.D. (Don) Schneider, Sheriff

Chuck Vondra, Undersheriff

Derek Gaylord, Jail Administrator

Deb Storm, Office Manager

May 13, 2013

The Honorable Wayne Schmidt  
State Representative

The Honorable Greg MacMaster  
State Representative

The Honorable Howard Walker  
State Senator

Dear Sirs,

Running red lights is among the most common cause of all urban crashes, as well as the most dangerous. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly 63 people died each month in red light running crashes from 2007 to 2011. Numerous independent studies show red light safety cameras reduce dangerous intersection crashes that typically cause injury or death. In fact, studies done by the Journal of Safety Research showed in large cities with red light safety cameras, the devices reduced the fatal red light running crash rate by 24 percent and the overall rate of all crash types by 17 percent.

Therefore, we support legislation to allow local municipalities the option of adopting an ordinance to authorize the use of automated traffic safety cameras in an effort to reduce red light running in Michigan communities. Such traffic safety programs must include the following guidelines:

- Use in intersections determined by local law enforcement as necessary for public safety
- Requiring a local law enforcement officer to review and approve the record image or images before a citation is issued;
- Allowing only for a rear shot of the vehicle to be taken;
- Publishing notice of the locations in which they are located;
- Installing advancing warning signs within 500 feet of the location;
- Implementing a public information campaign explaining the dangers of red light running and requiring a 30 day warning period from the point of installation before citations for violation are issued;
- Meeting the standard traffic signal timing, including yellow-light times, as established by the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

With these standards in place, we support legislation which would allow municipalities, if they so choose, the option to adopt local resolutions and or ordinances to allow for automated traffic safety programs to reduce red-light running and promote traffic safety.

Sincerely,

W.D. (Don) Schneider  
Sheriff



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